

only were provided, and these were then readily consumed. This behaviour, which I have not seen noted elsewhere, no doubt provided benefit to the young caterpillars in relative security from predators and a good chance of encountering young larvae of other species, e.g. *Operophtera brumata* L. and *Chloroclystis rectangulata* L. upon which to prey. — B. K. WEST, 36 Brair Road, Bexley, Kent.

MARUCA TESTULALIS GEYER IN SURREY. — I took a single specimen of this striking pyale at light here on the 29 July 1983. The determination was confirmed by the editor. — Sir JOHN DACIE, 10 Alan Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

MARUCA TESTULALIS GEYER (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN CORNWALL. — Since publishing the occurrence of *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. in Cornwall (*Ent. Rec.*, 95: 216), a specimen of another rare immigrant taken the same week has been identified as *Maruca testulalis* Geyer. This individual was captured on the night of 15/16 August 1983 at Mawnan Smith at m.v. light. *M. testulalis* was added to the British list by Chalmers-Hunt in 1968 (*Ent. Rec.*, 80:242, figured), when two larvae were successfully bred out by Dr. G. Dicker at East Malling Research Station. The first imago taken in this country was at Wanstead Park, Essex in 1979 by Mr. C. Plant (see de Worms, *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 286). I thank Rev. D. Agassiz for identifying my specimen. — A. P. FOSTER, c/o The Nature Conservancy Council, 19-20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

BEHAVIOUR OF LARVAE OF THE GYPSY MOTH: LYMANTRIA DISPAR L. — Whilst working in Italy in June 1983, I visited the home of a colleague, Dr. Carlo Matessi, in the village of Cascina, just south of Pavia. He had mentioned that he had seen several hairy caterpillars on the trunk of a large walnut tree in his garden. I immediately thought these would be of one of the footman moths. However, on examining the tree trunk I was surprised to discover that the larvae were not Arctiids at all, but rather Lymantrids, for I recognised an old friend, the Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*. I counted well over fifty larvae hidden between the cracks in the bark of the trunk. Most were in the 4th or 5th instars, but there were a few still in the earlier instars. I also found four of the buff coloured oval masses, all empty, so presumably these were the source of the larvae.

The intriguing aspect was the behaviour of the larvae. They remained motionless in their hiding places during the day and then at dusk started to move on the trunk, generally seeming to move upwards. By the time we rose the following morning the larvae had returned to their hiding places. Oddly the leaves of the walnut tree were not eaten at all. There were no other signs of *L. dispar* larvae elsewhere in the garden and no other potential foodplant close to the walnut tree. I suspect therefore that the larvae may have been "grazing" on algae or lichens growing on the trunk. This